

2-1-2000

Labor Market Digest, February 2000

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Labor Market Information

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Cumberland County records lowest unemployment rate page 3

Adjusted statewide unemployment rate rises slightly from 3.5 percent in November to 3.6 percent in December page 4

Nonfarm employment rises by 14,900 over the year, led by services industries page 6

A publication of the

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Labor Market
Information Services

Arnold A. Fongemie
Division Director

Dana A. Evans
Editor

For more information, call

(207) 287-2271
(207) 287-2947
(800) 794-1110

E-Mail - lmis.me@state.me.us

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<http://janus.state.me.us/labor/lmis/frdef.htm>

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

December Data

February 2000

Average Annual Pay in 1998

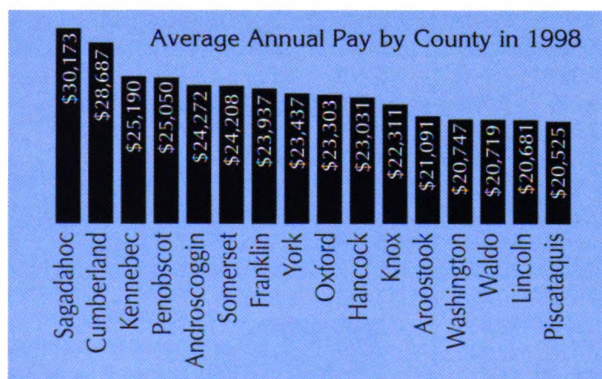
Average annual pay of all workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance programs in Maine rose 4.0 percent, from \$24,894 in 1997 to \$25,887 in 1998. Pay increased 4.4 percent in the private sector and 2.1 percent in government.

Sagadahoc County maintained its position as the county with the

highest in finance, insurance, and real estate; manufacturing; and wholesale trade. Pay was lowest in retail trade and services. (See related tables on page 8.)

Nationally, average annual pay rose 5.1 percent, from \$30,353 in 1997 to \$31,908 in 1998, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Average pay increased 5.5 percent in the private sector and 3.2 in government.

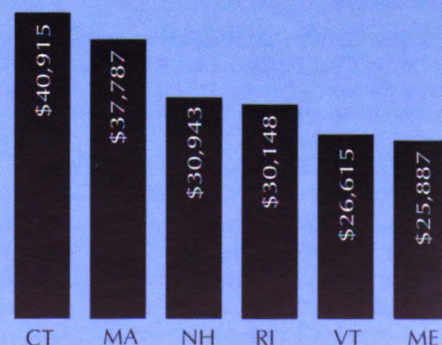
Among the New England states, pay was below the national average in all states except Connecticut and Massachusetts. Pay grew at or above the national rate of growth in Massachusetts (5.8%), New Hampshire (5.6%), Connecticut (5.1%), and Rhode Island (5.2%). Pay growth in Maine (4.0%) and Vermont (4.4%) lagged behind the national average.



highest average pay. Sagadahoc is followed by Cumberland, Kennebec, and Penobscot counties. Pay was lowest in Piscataquis County, followed by Lincoln, Waldo, and Washington counties.

Between 1997 and 1998, pay increased in all counties except Lincoln which was impacted by the closure of the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant. With the exception of Lincoln County, the fastest growth was in southern and mid-coast regions. Growth was slowest in western and northern regions.

Average Annual Pay by New England State in 1998



Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by Labor Market Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ¹			EMPLOYED ²			UNEMPLOYED ³			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁴		
	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98
LABOR MARKET AREAS												
Augusta	44,950	45,120	45,200	43,450	43,440	43,380	1,510	1,680	1,820	3.4%	3.7%	4.0%
Bangor MSA	53,800	53,400	51,600	52,600	52,200	50,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	2.4	2.4	2.5
Bath-Brunswick	35,260	35,400	32,960	34,350	34,450	32,170	910	950	790	2.6	2.7	2.4
Belfast	15,050	15,290	14,180	14,440	14,680	13,610	610	610	580	4.0	4.0	4.1
Biddeford	37,000	37,530	35,120	36,070	36,590	34,150	930	930	970	2.5	2.5	2.8
Boothbay Harbor	8,310	8,370	7,970	8,070	8,140	7,720	240	230	250	2.9	2.7	3.1
Bucksport	5,090	5,150	5,010	4,840	4,920	4,780	260	230	230	5.0	4.5	4.6
Calais	5,260	5,400	4,980	4,750	4,830	4,560	520	570	420	9.8	10.5	8.4
Dexter-Pittsfield	12,450	12,680	12,400	11,560	11,750	11,460	890	920	950	7.2	7.3	7.6
Dover-Foxcroft	7,350	7,320	7,130	6,860	6,860	6,720	490	460	410	6.7	6.3	5.8
Ellsworth-Bar Harbor	19,660	20,290	18,250	18,340	19,120	16,960	1,320	1,170	1,290	6.7	5.8	7.1
Farmington	17,970	17,510	17,180	16,700	16,100	16,040	1,270	1,410	1,150	7.1	8.1	6.7
Fort Kent	3,980	3,770	3,660	3,760	3,560	3,410	220	210	250	5.5	5.5	6.7
Greenville	900	950	940	820	870	860	70	80	70	8.2	8.1	7.8
Houlton	6,480	6,550	6,270	6,260	6,310	6,030	220	240	230	3.4	3.7	3.7
Jonesport-Milbridge	4,440	4,690	4,400	4,200	4,420	4,120	240	270	280	5.5	5.7	6.4
Kittery-York ⁵	20,220	20,260	20,180	19,990	20,060	19,890	230	200	290	1.1	1.0	1.4
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	55,000	55,200	53,700	53,400	53,500	51,900	1,600	1,800	1,800	2.8	3.2	3.4
Lincoln-Howland	5,870	5,860	5,770	5,530	5,530	5,440	350	330	330	5.9	5.6	5.6
Machias-Eastport	6,760	6,880	6,940	6,400	6,500	6,470	360	380	460	5.3	5.5	6.7
Madawaska	3,950	3,930	3,840	3,770	3,780	3,700	180	140	140	4.4	3.6	3.7
Millinocket-East Millinocket	5,210	5,230	5,180	4,890	4,870	4,840	320	350	340	6.1	6.7	6.6
Norway-Paris	11,420	11,540	11,350	10,870	10,940	10,780	550	600	570	4.8	5.2	5.0
Outer Bangor	8,100	8,040	7,650	7,660	7,630	7,280	440	410	370	5.4	5.1	4.8
Patten-Island Falls	1,990	1,990	1,890	1,830	1,830	1,750	160	160	140	7.9	8.1	7.2
Portland MSA	141,500	141,300	137,000	139,000	138,500	134,700	2,500	2,800	2,200	1.8	2.0	1.6
Presque Isle-Caribou	20,300	20,160	19,190	19,300	19,450	18,390	1,000	710	800	4.9	3.5	4.1
Rockland	23,200	23,140	22,760	22,540	22,590	22,210	660	550	560	2.8	2.4	2.5
Rumford	10,730	10,350	10,430	10,040	9,630	9,790	690	720	640	6.4	6.9	6.1
Sanford	23,400	23,430	23,030	22,550	22,440	21,980	850	990	1,050	3.6	4.2	4.6
Sebago Lakes Region	12,980	12,940	12,740	12,440	12,330	12,260	530	610	480	4.1	4.7	3.8
Skowhegan	16,740	17,010	16,340	15,620	15,720	15,250	1,120	1,290	1,090	6.7	7.6	6.7
Stonington	5,700	5,880	5,430	5,530	5,700	5,290	170	180	140	3.0	3.0	2.5
Van Buren	1,470	1,460	1,400	1,390	1,390	1,330	80	70	80	5.1	4.7	5.6
Waterville	24,830	24,970	24,620	23,880	23,880	23,380	950	1,090	1,240	3.8	4.3	5.0
MAINE	677,300	679,000	656,600	653,600	654,500	632,900	23,700	24,600	23,700	3.5	3.6	3.6
UNITED STATES (000)	139,941	139,895	138,297	134,696	134,515	132,732	5,245	5,380	5,565	3.7	3.8	4.0

¹ Civilian labor force, employed, and unemployed estimates are by place of residence. Current month estimates are preliminary; prior month and year-ago estimates are revised. Items may not add due to rounding. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces. MSA stands for Metropolitan Statistical Area.

² Total employment includes nonfarm wage and salary workers, agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, the self employed, and workers involved in labor disputes.

³ People are classified as unemployed, regardless of their eligibility for unemployment benefits or public assistance, if they meet all of the following criteria: 1) they were not employed during the survey week; 2) they were available for work at that time; and 3) they made specific efforts to find employment some time during the prior four weeks. Persons laid off from their former jobs and awaiting recall and those expecting to report to a job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

⁴ The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the total number of unemployed by the total civilian labor force, and is expressed as a percent.

⁵ Kittery-York is the five-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Rochester PMSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

Source: Maine Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98
COUNTY												
Androscoggin	61,300	61,530	59,690	59,310	59,310	57,580	1,990	2,220	2,110	3.2%	3.6%	3.5%
Aroostook	37,680	37,420	35,820	35,870	35,890	34,200	1,810	1,530	1,610	4.8	4.1	4.5
Cumberland	148,300	148,160	143,150	145,440	145,040	140,670	2,860	3,120	2,470	1.9	2.1	1.7
Franklin	15,030	14,670	14,490	14,100	13,600	13,550	930	1,070	940	6.2	7.3	6.5
Hancock	27,870	28,660	26,240	26,260	27,200	24,700	1,610	1,460	1,540	5.8	5.1	5.9
Kennebec	59,560	59,850	59,570	57,560	57,560	57,120	2,000	2,290	2,450	3.3	3.8	4.1
Knox	20,390	20,340	19,990	19,790	19,830	19,490	600	510	490	2.9	2.5	2.5
Lincoln	16,690	16,780	16,160	16,230	16,320	15,640	460	460	520	2.8	2.7	3.2
Oxford	26,650	26,350	26,190	25,190	24,800	24,770	1,460	1,550	1,420	5.5	5.9	5.4
Penobscot	79,890	79,580	76,930	76,960	76,670	74,070	2,920	2,910	2,860	3.7	3.7	3.7
Piscataquis	8,360	8,410	8,180	7,790	7,850	7,690	570	560	490	6.8	6.6	6.0
Sagadahoc	16,470	16,570	15,370	16,080	16,130	15,060	390	440	310	2.4	2.7	2.0
Somerset	26,140	26,490	25,750	24,460	24,640	23,970	1,680	1,850	1,780	6.4	7.0	6.9
Waldo	20,690	20,880	19,720	19,790	20,010	18,840	900	860	890	4.3	4.1	4.5
Washington	16,870	17,400	16,700	15,740	16,160	15,510	1,130	1,240	1,190	6.7	7.1	7.1
York	95,400	95,930	92,690	93,040	93,460	90,020	2,360	2,470	2,670	2.5	2.6	2.9
MAINE	677,300	679,000	656,600	653,600	654,500	632,900	23,700	24,600	23,700	3.5	3.6	3.6
UNITED STATES (000)	139,941	139,895	138,297	134,696	134,515	132,732	5,245	5,380	5,565	3.7	3.8	4.0

¹ See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Area Analyst's Corner

Central Area

Ken Bridges (207) 624-5199

Two proposals for new shopping centers have been submitted to the city of Waterville. ♦The **Chinet Company** in Waterville laid off approximately 40 production workers in January. ♦**Carleton Woolen Mill** in Winthrop has closed temporarily while it seeks additional financing, resulting in the layoff of over 300 workers. ♦**Home Depot** plans to build a store in the Rockland area as soon as possible, providing at least 60 new jobs.

Western Area

Gerard Dennison (207) 783-5314

The unemployment rate in the **Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** fell from 3.2 percent in November to 2.8 percent in December. The December rate tied the rate for November 1967 as the lowest monthly rate recorded for the MSA since estimates were first developed in 1960. ♦The **Farmington Labor Market Area (LMA)** rate dropped from 8.1 percent to 7.1 percent due to seasonal job increases at the **Sugarloaf** and **Saddleback** ski areas and additional hiring by **MBNA** in Farmington. ♦The unemployment rate in the **Rumford LMA** declined from 6.9 percent to 6.4 percent due to seasonal employment increases at the **Sunday River Skiway** and **Mt. Abram Ski Area**.

North/East Area

Craig Holland (207) 941-3076

Best Buy plans to locate in the Bangor area employing approximately 100 workers. Should approval by the City of Bangor be granted, construction of a new building at the site of the former Service Merchandise building on Bangor Mall Boulevard will begin early this spring. ♦The **Bangor and Aroostook Railroad** plans to consolidate repair and maintenance facilities. The diesel repair shops in Hermon and Millinocket and the right-of-way maintenance unit in Houlton will close and move to the Derby repair facility near Milo. The 40 workers affected have been offered new positions.

Southern Area

Merrill Huhtala (207) 775-5891

Fairchild Semiconductor in South Portland will invest \$8.1 million to upgrade parts of its fabrication plant and buy new manufacturing machines, creating 17 jobs. ♦**Hussey Seating** will supply seats for the new major league baseball stadium in Pittsburgh, PA. No new employees will be added as a result of the contract. Company revenues are growing between 5 and 10 percent a year. ♦**Small Fry Snack Foods** of Kitchener, Ontario, purchased the bankrupt **Humpty Dumpty Potato Chip Co.** in Scarborough. The Humpty Dumpty plant will close and production will shift to Canada, resulting in at least 75 lost jobs. About 65 Humpty Dumpty salespeople and managers in Maine will be retained.

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

ITEM	1999												1998
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Civilian Labor Force	683.8	682.7	679.8	676.3	669.5	670.0	668.5	668.1	663.0	662.8	663.8	660.5	664.7
Employed	658.9	659.1	653.5	650.1	641.5	642.2	639.1	639.4	639.4	640.2	641.8	637.7	639.5
Unemployed	24.9	23.6	26.3	26.2	28.0	27.8	29.4	28.7	23.6	22.6	22.0	22.8	25.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.6	3.5	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.3	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.8

¹ See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted¹ (in thousands)

INDUSTRY	1999												1998
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment ²	590.0	590.0	587.9	586.0	584.4	583.5	583.8	581.6	581.4	580.8	579.9	578.6	577.1
Construction	27.0	26.8	26.4	26.6	26.8	26.9	26.9	27.3	27.4	26.7	26.6	26.2	25.1
Manufacturing	86.0	85.6	85.1	85.3	84.7	84.7	84.9	84.7	84.6	85.7	86.4	86.6	85.4
Durable Goods	43.2	42.9	42.5	42.7	42.2	42.3	42.0	42.2	42.2	42.7	42.9	43.0	42.5
Nondurable Goods	42.8	42.7	42.6	42.6	42.5	42.4	42.9	42.5	42.4	43.0	43.5	43.6	42.9
Transportation and Public Utilities	24.2	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.3	24.3	24.4	24.1	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.0
Wholesale Trade	27.2	27.4	27.2	27.2	27.1	26.8	27.1	27.1	27.2	27.1	27.1	27.0	27.0
Retail Trade	122.1	122.5	121.0	118.9	119.0	118.5	119.1	118.8	118.3	118.7	117.8	118.2	119.1
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	30.6	30.8	31.0	30.7	30.6	30.9	31.1	31.1	31.0	30.7	30.8	30.7	30.3
Services	179.4	178.8	178.7	177.5	177.0	176.5	176.1	174.5	174.5	173.2	172.7	172.1	172.5
Government	93.4	93.6	94.0	95.3	94.7	94.8	94.2	93.6	94.2	94.4	94.2	93.5	93.6

¹ See footnotes 1 and 2 on page 6. ² Mining employment is not suitable for seasonal adjustment because it has very little seasonal and irregular movement. Thus, the not-seasonally-adjusted series is used as a component of the seasonally adjusted total nonfarm wage and salary employment estimate. Source: See page 2.

December Unemployment Rate Rose to 3.6 Percent

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry has announced that the seasonally-adjusted December unemployment rate for Maine was 3.6 percent, up from 3.5 percent in November.

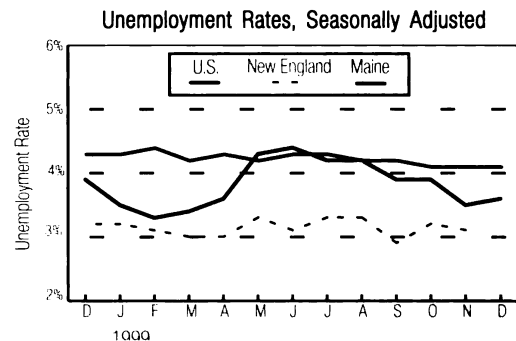
"The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly between November and December but remained below the rate for December 1998 which was 3.8 percent," said Commissioner Landry.

Seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs were unchanged over the month at 590,000. Between December 1998 and December 1999 nonfarm jobs increased by 12,900, with about half of the gain attributed to growth in the services industries. Job growth also was reported in retail trade; construction; manufacturing; finance, insurance, and real estate; and transportation and public utilities.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted December unemployment rates include

New Hampshire, 2.5 percent, and Vermont, 2.7 percent. The adjusted national rate for December was 4.1 percent.

The not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for December was 3.5 percent, down from 3.6 percent in November and 3.6 percent in December 1998. The



unadjusted national rate was 3.7 percent in December, down from 3.8 percent in November and 4.0 percent in December 1998. Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 1.9 percent in Cumberland County to 6.8 percent in Piscataquis County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary employment fell by 1,600 between November and December to 597,300. There was a seasonal loss of 1,100 construction jobs. Seasonal declines were also recorded in eating and drinking places and lodging services.

Between December 1998 and December 1999, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

Key Data	Dec 1999	Nov 1999	Dec 1998
Average Duration	12.9	12.5	15.4
Average Weekly Benefit Amount*	\$193.03	\$190.81	\$184.65
Exhaustees	885	734	1,751

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

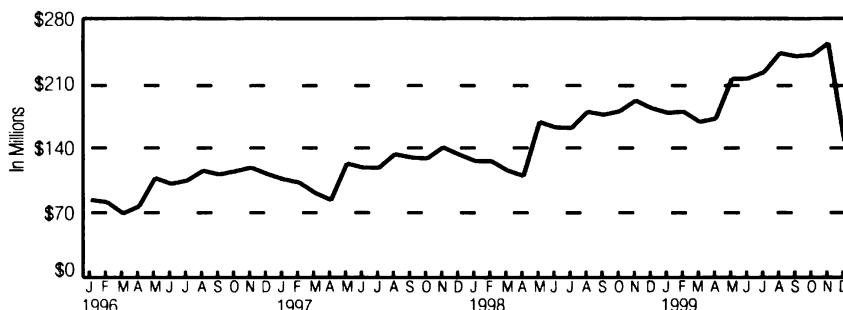
Week	1/8	1/1	12/25	12/18	12/11	12/4	11/27
2000	2,410	2,264	1,952	1,793	1,864	1,764	1,208
Week	1/9	1/2	12/26	12/19	12/12	12/5	11/28
1999	2,886	2,917	3,009	2,484	2,429	2,992	1,617

Continued Claims Less Partials*

Dec 1999	Nov 1999	Dec 1998
7,204	4,696	7,630

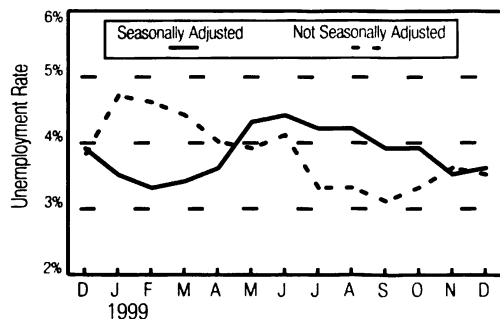
* For the week including the 12th of the month.

Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



by 14,900. Services rose by 7,100, largely in social, health, business, and other services. Retail trade increased by 3,900, with the largest gains in food stores, general merchandise stores, and eating and drinking places. Construction; finance, insurance, and real estate; transportation and public utilities; and manufacturing also increased over the year.

Unemployment Rates for Maine

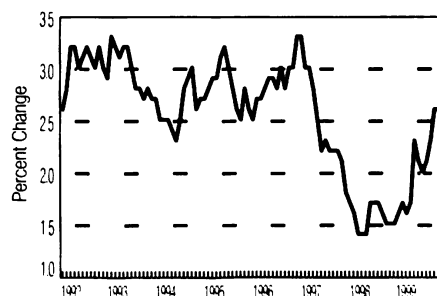


U.S. Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

Item	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 98
(1982-1984 = 100) All Items	168.3	168.3	163.9	163.9

Percent Change from Prior Month	+0.0%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+2.7%
Percent change from Last December	+2.7%

Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Not Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

INDUSTRY	MAINE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment¹	597.3	598.9	582.4	153.3	152.8	149.7	45.8	45.9	44.5
Goods Producing	113.9	115.2	111.5	22.6	22.7	22.1	9.6	9.7	9.5
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	27.0	28.1	24.8	7.6	7.8	7.1	1.6	1.7	1.6
Building Construction	6.2	6.2	5.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	*	*	*
Heavy Construction	4.9	5.2	4.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Special Trade Contractors	15.9	16.7	15.1	5.7	5.9	5.4	*	*	*
Manufacturing	86.8	87.0	86.6	15.0	14.9	15.0	8.0	8.0	7.9
Durable Goods	44.0	44.1	43.7	7.2	7.2	7.0	2.3	2.3	2.3
Lumber and Wood Products	10.8	10.8	10.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.8	3.8	3.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	4.7	4.7	4.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	*	*	*
Electronic and Other Electrical Equipment	7.4	7.4	7.0	2.8	2.8	2.5	*	*	*
Transportation Equipment	11.4	11.4	11.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Durable Goods	5.9	6.0	5.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods	42.8	42.9	42.9	7.8	7.7	8.0	5.7	5.7	5.6
Food and Kindred Products	6.1	6.0	6.2	2.5	2.5	2.6	*	*	*
Textile Mill Products	3.4	3.2	3.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Apparel and Other Textile Products	2.6	2.6	2.3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Paper and Allied Products	13.6	13.4	13.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Printing and Publishing	6.1	6.2	5.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	*	*	*
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	2.7	2.8	2.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leather and Leather Products	6.4	6.6	6.5	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.7	4.8	4.8	4.6
Service Producing	483.4	483.7	470.9	130.7	130.1	127.6	36.2	36.2	35.0
Transportation and Public Utilities	24.6	24.5	24.2	7.0	6.9	6.7	1.9	1.9	1.8
Wholesale Trade	27.2	27.4	27.1	9.2	9.1	9.0	2.4	2.4	2.3
Retail Trade	125.4	125.6	121.5	36.5	36.6	34.3	9.5	9.6	9.2
General Merchandise Stores	14.2	13.9	13.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Stores	24.4	24.2	22.3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Automotive Sales and Services	13.9	14.1	13.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Eating and Drinking Places	33.8	34.5	33.3	8.0	8.5	7.9	*	*	*
Other Retail Trade	39.1	38.9	39.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	30.7	30.6	30.1	13.1	13.0	13.2	2.5	2.4	2.3
Banking	9.4	9.3	8.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents	12.6	12.6	12.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	8.7	8.7	8.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Services	177.6	177.4	170.5	45.0	45.1	44.8	14.8	14.8	14.3
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	7.8	8.3	7.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Business Services	26.2	26.0	25.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health Services	56.8	57.0	55.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Educational Services	14.5	15.0	14.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Services	25.4	25.1	22.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Services	46.9	46.0	44.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Government	97.9	98.2	97.5	18.7	17.7	19.6	5.1	5.1	5.1
Federal	13.7	13.4	13.7	2.7	2.5	2.7	0.3	0.3	0.3
State	26.9	27.0	26.4	5.4	5.2	5.2	0.7	0.7	0.7
Local ²	57.3	57.8	57.4	11.8	11.7	11.7	4.1	4.1	4.1

¹ Nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, the self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry. Current month's estimates are preliminary; prior month and year-ago estimates are revised. These estimates are benchmarked to March 1998. As a measure of reliability, the March 1998 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was .07 percent higher than the original sample-based estimate.

² Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months.

* Where an employment estimate is not entered, either the data is not available in sufficient detail for publication or is nondisclosable by law.

Source: See page 2.

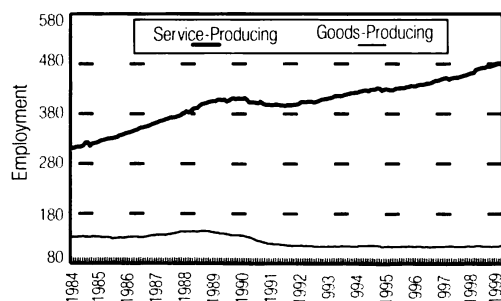
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 99	Dec 98	1998	1997	1996
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	\$582.50	\$577.53	\$577.08	41.4	41.4	42.0	\$14.07	\$13.95	\$13.74	\$13.50	\$13.12	\$12.71
Durable Goods	\$46.62	\$45.96	\$46.08	41.6	41.9	42.7	13.14	13.03	13.14	12.99	12.72	12.23
Lumber and Wood Products	463.30	464.36	455.34	42.7	42.1	42.2	10.85	11.03	10.79	10.45	10.32	10.10
Primary and Fabricated Metals	553.35	542.28	515.42	42.5	42.8	41.6	13.02	12.67	12.39	12.33	11.55	11.31
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	720.95	696.31	676.83	47.4	45.6	46.2	15.21	15.27	14.65	14.33	14.66	14.17
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	520.81	540.22	547.79	44.4	49.2	46.7	11.73	10.98	11.73	11.48	11.13	10.94
Transportation Equipment	642.90	641.17	695.94	36.8	35.9	39.7	17.47	17.86	17.53	17.60	16.77	15.49
Other Durable Goods	404.43	406.30	427.04	39.0	39.6	41.5	10.37	10.26	10.29	10.40	10.27	10.08
Nondurable Goods	\$619.38	\$609.96	\$594.10	41.1	40.8	41.2	15.07	14.95	14.42	14.04	13.50	13.17
Food and Kindred Products	412.86	411.16	420.34	42.0	41.7	41.7	9.83	9.86	10.08	10.00	9.85	10.00
Textile Mill Products	483.11	495.94	466.89	43.8	44.8	42.1	11.03	11.07	11.09	10.49	9.97	10.27
Apparel and Other Textile Products	448.97	455.76	377.74	42.8	42.2	40.1	10.49	10.80	9.42	9.57	9.52	9.00
Paper and Allied Products	950.11	930.24	921.02	41.8	40.8	43.9	22.73	22.80	20.98	20.23	19.44	18.84
Leather and Leather Products	410.22	406.19	372.06	40.1	40.7	39.0	10.23	9.98	9.54	9.31	8.88	8.71
Other Nondurable Goods	495.22	491.01	463.98	38.3	38.3	38.0	12.93	12.82	12.21	12.12	11.65	11.20
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	\$519.59	\$510.78	\$492.05	44.6	44.3	43.2	11.65	11.53	11.39	11.86	11.28	11.22
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	\$535.00	\$530.87	\$515.81	42.8	41.9	43.2	12.50	12.67	11.94	11.40	11.13	11.13

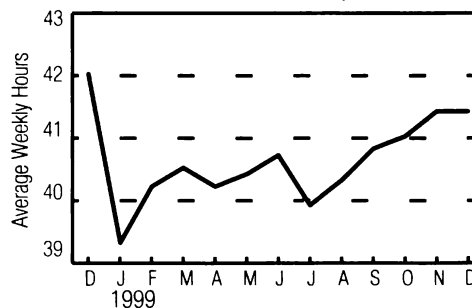
¹ Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

Source: See page 2.

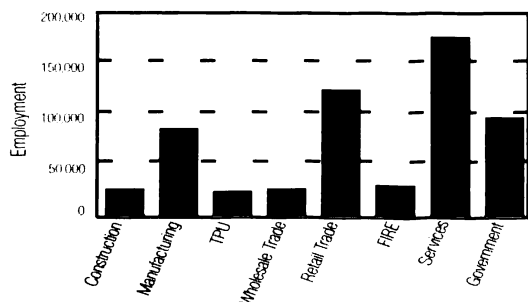
Nonfarm Employment by Sector
January 1984-December 1999, Maine¹



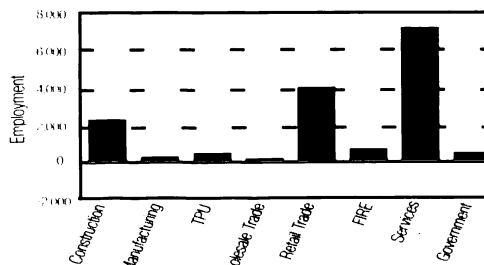
Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²



Nonfarm Employment by Industry Division
Maine, December 1999²



Nonfarm Employment by Industry Division
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, December 1999²



¹ Seasonally Adjusted. ² Not Seasonally Adjusted.

Average Annual Pay by Major Industry in Maine*

Industry	1997	1998	Percent Change
Private			
Total	\$24,382	\$25,459	4.4
Construction	27,036	28,595	5.8
Manufacturing	32,325	33,228	2.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	30,227	31,844	5.3
Wholesale Trade	31,841	32,830	3.1
Retail Trade	14,757	15,610	5.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	34,377	37,165	8.1
Services	22,893	23,844	4.2
Government	27,528	28,106	2.1

Average Annual Pay by Major Industry in the United States*

Industry	1997	1998	Percent Change
Private			
Total	\$30,064	\$31,722	5.5
Construction	31,744	33,346	5.0
Manufacturing	38,306	40,040	4.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	37,658	39,301	4.4
Wholesale Trade	39,449	41,759	5.9
Retail Trade	15,878	16,794	5.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	44,884	48,597	8.3
Services	28,466	30,011	5.4
Government	31,916	32,931	3.2

*Workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance programs.

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